

A NEW SPECIES OF NEUROLAENA (ASTERACEAE-HELICANTHEAE)
FROM SOUTHERNMOST VERACRUZ, MEXICO

B. L. Turner

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin TX 78713

Exploration of the lowland tropical forests in and about Hidalgotitlan, Veracruz has revealed the following novelty. It is clearly related to Neurolaena macrocephala but differs in a number of significant characters, standing somewhat between this species and N. schippii. In short, it appears to be yet another isolated relictual taxon, bringing to 11 the number of species which I now recognize for Neurolaena: the widespread N. lobata and 10 relatively localized taxa, six of the latter largely restricted to Southern Mexico (Turner, 1982, Pl. Syst. Evol. 140: 119-139).

Neurolaena wendtii B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Neurolaena macrocephala accedens sed phyllariis nonscariosis acutis caulibus hirsutis pilis longis.

Shrub to 2 m high. Stems terete, densely hirsute with multiseptate purplish hairs. Leaves thin, elliptical to somewhat obovate, pinnately veined, 22-28 cm long, 8-11 cm wide; petioles narrowly winged, 1-3 cm long; blades darkening upon drying, pubescent on both surfaces with erect hairs, the margins remotely denticulate, the apices acute to apiculate. Heads discoid, ca 20 in a terminal corymbose-panicle, the ultimate peduncles 1.0-1.5 cm long. Involucres broadly campanulate, 8-9 mm long, 10-12 mm broad, about as long as the enclosed florets; bracts in 4-5 series, the outermost linear-lanceolate, loose and calyculum-like with a shaggy vestiture, the innermost narrowly ovate, densely short-hispid, the apices acute to obtuse. Receptacle convex, 2-3 mm across, ca 1 mm high; pales linear, minutely hispid, 7-8 mm long, ca as long as the subtended florets. Corollas "verdosas", 6.5-7.5 mm long, tube ca 2 mm long, the throat tubular, ca 3.5 mm long, the lobes ca 0.6 mm long. Achenes brownish-black, 2.0-2.5 mm long, hispid above; pappus of numerous tawny bristles ca 6 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. Veracruz: Mpio. Hidalgotitlan; lomas al SE del Poblado 6 (17° 15' N x 94° 29' 30" W), 27 Mar 1981, T. Wendt et al. 3095. (holotype TEX; isotypes MEXU, to be distributed).

In my recent treatment of Neurolaena (Turner, 1982) N. wendtii can be placed in the sect. Neurolaena under the series Macrocephala near N. macrocephala. It differs from the latter in having fewer heads, narrower, non-scarious, mostly acute involucre bracts shaggy-hirsute stems, etc. Except for its eglandular leaf surfaces, N. wendtii will key to N. schippii in my treatment, a localized taxon in the montane regions of Belize.